



Sacramento Audubon Society

P. O. Box 160694, Sacramento, CA 95816-0694

October 23, 2013

Via e-mail

Charlton H. Bonham, Director,
California Department of Fish and Wildlife
1416 9th Street, 12th Floor
Sacramento, CA 95814
director@wildlife.ca.gov

Sonke Mastrup, Executive Director
California Fish and Game Commission
1416 Ninth Street, Suite 1320
Sacramento, CA 95814
sonke.mastrup@fgc.ca.gov

RE: Opposition to CDFW/Annenberg MOU Regarding the Construction and Operation of Domestic Pet Care and Adoption Facilities in Ecological Reserves.

Dear Director Bonham and Executive Director Mastrup,

Sacramento Audubon Society, Inc., joins its sister chapters across the state in expressing its dismay and opposition to the terms of the Department's MOU with the Annenberg Foundation that contemplate the construction of a proposed interpretive center in Area C of the Ballona Wetlands, a designated state ecological reserve, that would apparently include, *inter alia*, companion animal (i.e., domestic pet) adoption and veterinary facilities.

To be clear: Sacramento Audubon does not oppose domestic pets, their care or adoption. We do believe, however, that common sense dictates that the last place to site domestic pet care or adoption facilities is within the boundaries of state-designated ecological reserves. The very purpose of these reserves is to protect and enhance the wildlife and wildlife habitats they represent. Domestic pets (which harass, chase and can even kill native wildlife) are fundamentally inconsistent with such land's most basic conservation purposes.

Sacramento Audubon Society is deeply concerned by the unconscionable precedent set by the Department entering any such MOU. Will we next face domestic pet adoption and veterinary facilities in sensitive ecological reserves in the Sacramento region? At the Cosumnes River Preserve? At the Isenberg Crane Preserve (aka Woodbridge Ecological Reserve)? Or perhaps to construct such facilities on Fish and Game lands adjacent to the Bobelaine Audubon Sanctuary in Sutter County?

To ask the question is to answer it: domestic pets and state ecological reserves do not mix. Sacramento Audubon Society requests that the Department and Commission take whatever steps are necessary to disavow these portions of the CDFW/Annenberg MOU, and to make it clear that the state's policy is to protect the state's ecological reserves, not convert them into domestic pet care and adoption facilities.

Sincerely,

Keith G. Wagner, Conservation Chair
Sacramento Audubon Society, Inc.